

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 /017 R

66604

DRAFTED BY S/S-O:KBROWN

APPROVED BY S/S-O:GTWOHIE

S/S:WLUERS

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O P 151608Z MAY 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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TOSEC 650

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO LONDON PARIS ROME MOSCOW
NATO EC BRUSSELS BERLIN BREMEN DUSSELDORF FRANKFURT HAMBURG
MUNICH STUTTGART FROM BONN 15 MAY 74:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 07762

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, GW

SUBJECT: SCHEEL ELECTED FEDERAL PRESIDENT

1. THE FDP'S WALTER SCHEEL WAS ELECTED TO THE FEDERAL
PRESIDENCY MAY 15 ON A PARTY-LINE VOTE 530 TO 498 FOR
THE CDU/CSU'S VON WEIZSAECKER. ONE SPD AND TWO CDU
REPRESENTATIVES WERE ABSENT. SCHEEL WILL SUCCEED THE
CURRENT PRESIDENT, HEINEMANN, THE FIRST OF JULY.

2. COMMENT: AS SCHEEL ACHIEVED AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY
ON THE FIRST BALLOT, NO FURTHER BALLOTS WERE NEEDED.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A PRESIDENT HAS BEEN ELECTED TO
HIS FIRST TERM ON THE FIRST BALLOT, ALTHOUGH BOTH
HUESS IN 1954 AND LUEBKE IN 1964 WERE RE-ELECTED ON
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THE FIRST BALLOT.

3. FURTHERMORE, AS SCHEEL RECEIVED 530 OF THE 534 VOTES NOMINALLY COMMITTED TO THE SPD/FDP, THE DEFECTIONS THAT WERE FEARED FROM THE SPD BECAUSE OF ANGER WITH SCHEEL'S PARTY COLLEAGUE, GENSCHER, DID NOT MATERIALIZE. WE THUS HAVE STILL FURTHER REASON TO EXPECT SCHMIDT'S ELECTION AS CHANCELLOR MAY 16 ALSO TO FOLLOW PARTY LINES AND THEREFORE ALSO PRODUCE AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY ON THE FIRST BALLOT THUS PERMITTING HIS ADMINISTRATION TO BEGIN NOT VISIBLY BURDENED BY BITTERNESS LEFT OVER FROM THE RESIGNATION OF BRANDT. HILLENBRAND UNQUOTE RUSH

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